

‘In the end it’s the people you have around you ... on the couch

CHARLOTTE NASH, AUTHOR

A vivid childhood memory is ... as a girl I had an obsession with horses. My Year 5 teacher told me I shouldn’t read all these books about horses. It put me off reading for a long time. It was my first experience of judgement about what is the right thing to read.

My first job was ... working in a bakery after I finished at Moreton Bay College. I grew up in Redlands [also on Brisbane’s southern bayside] and didn’t go to the CBD until I was about eight.

I always thought I’d become a ... doctor, and I went on to study medicine after I finished engineering at the University of Queensland. I worked at the CSIRO as an engineer and later got a job as an incident investigator, which combined both.

I started writing ... seriously in 2007 while at the CSIRO, when I heard about technical writing as a job. I started a writing, editing and publishing diploma at UQ. A subject was taught by author Kim Wilkins and I found it really exciting. She suggested a course she taught at the Queensland Writers’ Centre, and it grew from there.

My most treasured possession is ... an amethyst my British uncle gave me. He bought it in Brazil when he was in the merchant navy. He just wanted me to get it set and send him a picture.

The word that best describes me is ... unconventional.

My greatest achievement is ... my wonderful circle of friends – in the end it’s the people you have around you, rather than what you produce.

My favourite smell is ... Yardley’s Nights in White Satin perfume. You can’t get it any more and I have a tiny bit left that I use on very special occasions.

A book I couldn’t put down was ... recently, Liane Moriarty’s *The Husband’s Secret*, otherwise it’s Jilly Cooper’s *Riders*.

A song that forces me to sing along whenever I hear it is ... anything by Queen.

My next challenge is ... finishing my next novel, *The Horseman*, and giving birth to my first baby.

The point of life is ... to live it. Rather than waiting for the next big thing, it’s getting the day-to-day right.

ALISON WALSH

Nash, 35, lives in Brisbane. Her third novel, *Crystal Creek* (Hachette Australia, \$30), is published Tuesday.



jukebox



EYES WITHOUT A FACE
BILLY IDOL, 1984

Proving he was no philistine, former English punk Billy Idol pinched the title and idea for his lush ballad *Eyes Without a Face* from classic 1960 French horror film *Les Yeux Sans Visage*. In the movie, a plastic surgeon is involved in a car crash that disfigures his beautiful daughter, sparing only her eyes. He later abducts young women and surgically removes their facial features, intending to graft them onto the ruined visage of his daughter. The video for Idol’s song

was shot continuously over three days and after it wrapped, an exhausted Idol fell asleep on a flight to Arizona for his next live show, waking to discover his contact lenses had fused to his eyeballs in the dry cabin air. The lenses had to be surgically removed in hospital, where Idol had his corneas scraped and for the next three days under blindfold was effectively a face without eyes. Idol is on the bill of A Day on the Green, Sirromet Wines, Mt Cotton, next Sunday.

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EARTHY RECIPES
Planet to Plate: The Earth Hour Cookbook, incorporating 52 recipes from Australia’s biggest culinary names, is a fundraiser for next Saturday’s 8.30pm event and spin-off initiatives. \$50 at Earthhour.org.au/cookbook

